

FORTE IS LATEST CAROLINA FRESHMAN TO MAKE A SPLASH

- Joseph Forte averaged 16.7 points per game in 1999-2000, leading the Tar Heels in scoring, three-point field goals, and steals. Forte was the ACC Rookie of the Year, earned second-team All-ACC honors, Freshman All-America honors, and was the MVP of the Maui Classic and the NCAA South Regional.
- Michael Jordan hit the game-winning jump shot against Georgetown in 1982 NCAA championship game. Jordan averaged 13.5 points per game as a freshman on that national title winning team, but even more impressively, made 53.4 percent of his shot attempts from the floor.
- Forward James Worthy was shooting 58.7 percent from the floor in his first 14 games as a freshman in 1980 before suffering a season-ending injury.
- Sam Perkins led UNC in blocked shots and was second on the squad in scoring and rebounding in 1981. Perkins was ACC Rookie of the Year, ACC Tournament MVP and was named to the NCAA All-West Regional Team. Perkins holds the ACC record for field goal percentage by a freshman at .626.
- Forward Mike O'Koren scored 31 points to lead Carolina past UNLV in 1977 national semifinals.
- In 1996, forward Antawn Jamison became only the fifth player in ACC history to earn first-team All-ACC honors as a freshman. He averaged 15.1 points and 9.7 rebounds and became the first rookie to lead the ACC in field goal percentage, shooting 62.4 percent from the floor.
- J.R. Reid averaged 14.7 points, shot 58.4 percent from the floor and led Carolina in rebounding with 7.4 per game. Reid was a freshman standout on a Tar Heel team that went 14-0 in the ACC regular season.
- Rasheed Wallace joined a veteran squad coming off a national championship and averaged 9.5 points and 6.6 rebounds and shot 60.4 percent from the floor. That same year, Stackhouse averaged 12.2 points a game. The Tar Heels finished No. 1 in the country in the final A.P. poll that season.
- Forte is the fifth Tar Heel to earn ACC Rookie of the Year honors. He joins Sam Perkins (1981), Michael Jordan (1982), J.R. Reid (1987) and Ed Cota (1997).
- Cota led the ACC in assists with 6.9 per game in 1997 and led the Tar Heels to an ACC Tournament title and NCAA Final Four appearance.
- Three Tar Heel freshmen – Phil Ford (1975), Sam Perkins (1981), and Jerry Stackhouse (1994) – were named ACC Tournament Most Valuable Players. Ford averaged 16.4 points, led the team with 161 assists and shot 51.6 percent from the floor as a freshman.

Worthy, Michael Jordan, Kenny Smith, J.R. Reid, Pete Chilcutt, Rick Fox, Vince Carter and Antawn Jamison. As a frosh, Ford won the Everett Case Award as Most Valuable Player of the ACC Tournament as Carolina beat defending national champion N.C. State in the finals, 70-66, knocking the Wolfpack out the NCAA Tournament in the process. The Tar Heels had to survive overtime games with Wake Forest and Clemson in the first two rounds of the tournament just to get into the final game. Overall, that Carolina team finished 23-8 and was eliminated in the NCAA East Regional semifinals by Syracuse, which went on to the Final Four.

A year later, in Kupchak's senior season, the Tar Heels had one of their best teams ever under Smith, but it was undone by injuries and bad luck at season's end. First-team All-Americans Kupchak and Ford led the team to a 25-4 mark and a 13-1 ACC slate. But Carolina was upset in the ACC finals by Virginia, giving the Cavaliers their only ACC championship in history, and then UNC lost to Alabama in the first round of the NAAs with Ford sidelined with a badly sprained ankle. Following the season, Carmichael Auditorium underwent a renovation which increased seating capacity from 8,800 to 10,000. Individual seats were torn out and bleacher seats installed throughout the facility.

The 1977 campaign marked a return to the Final Four for the first time in five years as UNC posted a 28-5 mark. Mid-season knee surgery on LaGarde ended his college career prematurely and then Davis broke his thumb in the ACC Tournament semifinals against N.C. State. Led by Kuester, the Tar Heels persevered and beat Virginia in the tournament finals, 75-69. Carolina used its up-tempo style to perfection in conjunction with the famed four corners

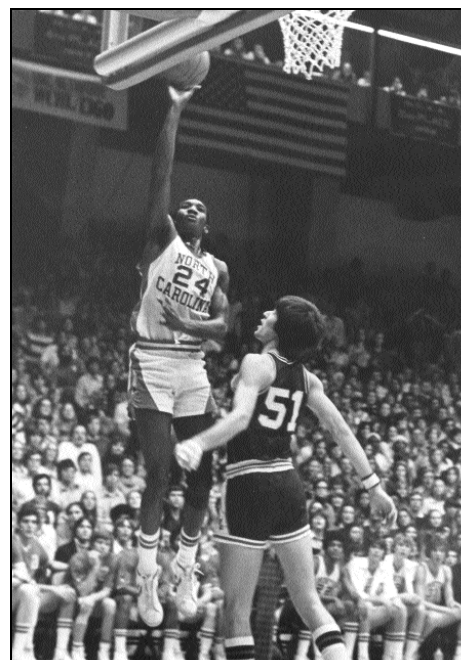
offense in scoring NCAA wins over Purdue, Notre Dame, Kentucky and UNLV. All were of the comeback variety save the win over the Wildcats. Ford suffered a hyperextended elbow in the waning moments of the Notre Dame game and played the remainder of the tourney at less than 100 percent. After freshman O'Koren helped the Heels into the finals with 31 points against Vegas, the Tar Heels fell to Marquette, 67-59, in the title game.

The 1978 team had to play minus LaGarde, Davis and Kuester – no easy task. It was Ford's senior year and the Rocky Mount, N.C., native was tapped for National Player of the Year honors by four organizations as UNC finished 23-8. In an emotional Carmichael Auditorium farewell, Ford scored a career-high 34 points as UNC beat Duke 87-83 in one of the most memorable games played in the building, clinching the ACC regular-season championship for the Heels in the process. Ford finished his career as a three-time first-team All-America and as Carolina's alltime leading scorer and assist man. He still holds the scoring record to this day with 2,290 points.

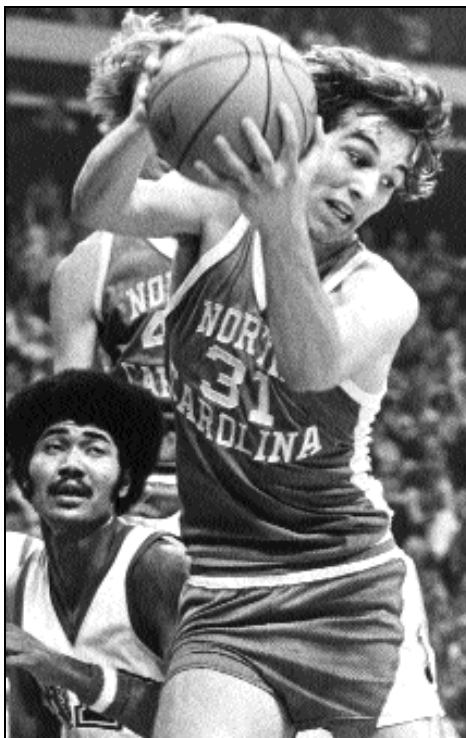
The 1979 squad was not ranked highly in the preseason, but won Smith ACC and National Coach of the Year honors after finishing 23-6. O'Koren, senior defensive wizard Dudley Bradley and sophomore sharpshooter Al Wood led that team. During the regular season, UNC upset eventual national champion Michigan State 70-69 at Carmichael and scored an infamous 70-69 win at N.C. State on Bradley's last-second steal and dunk. Carolina tied for the ACC regular-season championship with Duke and then beat the Blue Devils 71-63 in the ACC Tournament finals as Bradley captured tournament MVP honors. Carolina was upset in the

CAROLINA'S FINAL TOP-25 NATIONAL POLL RANKINGS

Year	Media Poll (Started 1949)	Coaches Poll (Started 1951)
1955-56	.....13th	.....11th
1956-57	.....1st	.....1st
1957-58	.....13th	.....12th
1958-59	.....9th	.....6th
1959-60	.....Not Ranked	.....14th
1960-61	.....5th	.....6th
1966-67	.....4th	.....3rd
1967-68	.....4th	.....4th
1968-69	.....4th	.....2nd
1970-71	.....13th	.....13th
1971-72	.....2nd	.....2nd
1972-73	.....11th	.....12th
1973-74	.....12th	.....8th
1974-75	.....9th	.....10th
1975-76	.....8th	.....6th
1976-77	.....5th	.....3rd
1977-78	.....16th	.....10th
1978-79	.....9th	.....3rd
1979-80	.....15th	.....15th
1980-81	.....6th	.....6th
1981-82	.....1st	.....1st
1982-83	.....8th	.....8th
1983-84	.....1st	.....1st
1984-85	.....7th	.....7th
1985-86	.....8th	.....8th
1986-87	.....2nd	.....3rd
1987-88	.....7th	.....8th
1988-89	.....5th	.....4th
1990-91	.....4th	.....4th
1991-92	.....18th	.....12th
1992-93	.....4th	.....1st
1993-94	.....1st	.....9th
1994-95	.....4th	.....3rd
1995-96	.....25th	.....24th
1996-97	.....4th	.....4th
1997-98	.....1st	.....3rd
1998-99	.....13th	.....18th
1999-2000	.....Not Ranked	.....11th



Walter Davis was one of the best all-around players in ACC history. He won a gold medal with the 1976 U.S. Olympic team and later was the 1978 NBA



Three-time first-team All-America Mike O'Koren was a four-year starter and helped lead Carolina to the

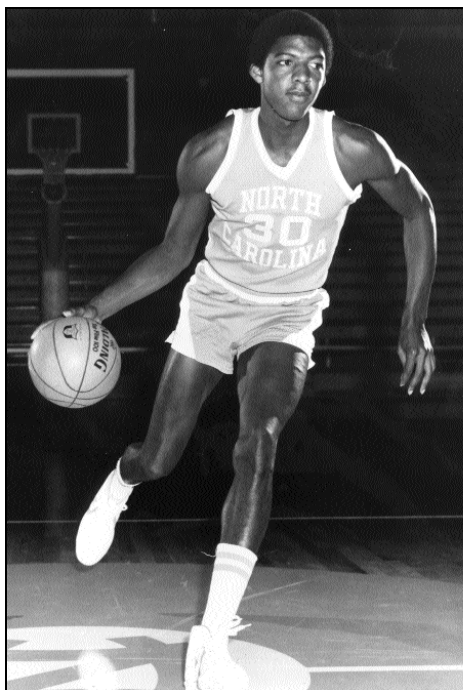
NCAA second round by Penn, which went on to play in the NCAA Final Four.

The 1980 squad was led by a senior class which featured O'Koren, a first-team All-America in 1979 and 1980. The Tar Heels finished 21-8. Other graduating seniors were guards Dave Colescott and John Virgil and centers Rich Yonakor and Jeff Wolf. One of the season's highlights was a 61-57 win at Indiana in the homecoming game for Colescott, a Marion, Ind., native and former Mr. Basketball in the Hoosier State.

The 1981 team would initiate a string of 13 straight Carolina squads which advanced to the Final 16 of the NCAA Tournament. Led by Al Wood and sophomore power forward James Worthy, UNC finished 29-8 and won the ACC Tournament title with one-point wins over Wake Forest and Maryland in the semifinal and final, respectively. After winning the NCAA West Regional crown, UNC returned to the Final Four in Philadelphia where it avenged two regular-season losses to conference foe Virginia in the semifinals behind Wood's astounding 39-point performance, an NCAA Tournament semifinal game scoring record to this day. Two days later, on the day President Ronald Reagan

MILESTONE WINS IN CAROLINA BASKETBALL HISTORY

Victory No.	Score	Opponent
1	42-21	Virginia Christian, Jan. 27, 1911
100	29-23	at Duke, March 7, 1922
200	45-14	Salisbury YMCA, Dec. 10, 1927
300	24-23	at Virginia, Jan. 29, 1934
400	42-38	at Asheboro McCrary Eagles, Dec. 30, 1939
500	55-28	N.C. State in Southern Conf. Tournament, Feb. 22, 1945
600	64-42	South Carolina, Jan. 18, 1950
700	63-55	Wake Forest in Dixie Classic, Dec. 29, 1956
800	100-71	Virginia at Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 13, 1962
900	82-54	Georgia Tech at Charlotte, N.C., Jan. 27, 1968
1,000	92-72	Maryland, Jan. 29, 1972
1,100	79-74	Georgia Tech at Charlotte, N.C., Feb. 6, 1976
1,200	73-70 (OT)	Rutgers at Madison Square Garden, Feb. 14, 1980
1,300	64-51	St. John's at Madison Square Garden, Dec. 29, 1983
1,400	96-80	Clemson, Feb. 21, 1987
1,500	92-70	N.C. State, Feb. 7, 1991
1,600	90-67	Pittsburgh, Nov. 29, 1994
1,700	60-45	Virginia, Feb. 11, 1998
1st ACC Win	82-56	South Carolina, Dec. 12, 1953
1st ACC Tournament Win	81-77	Virginia at Raleigh, N.C., March 1, 1956
1st Win in ACC Final	95-75	South Carolina at Raleigh, N.C., March 9, 1957
1st NCAA Tournament Win	57-49	NYU at Madison Square Garden, March 21, 1946
1st win in NCAA Final	54-53 (3 OT)	Kansas at Kansas City, Mo., March 23, 1957
1st win under Dean Smith	80-46	Virginia, Dec. 2, 1961
Last win in Carmichael Auditorium	90-79	N.C. State, Jan. 4, 1986
1st win in Smith Center	95-92	Duke, Jan. 18, 1986
877th win under Dean Smith	73-56	Colorado, March 15, 1997
1st win under Bill Guthridge	84-56	Middle Tennessee State, Nov. 14, 1997
1st ACC Title under Bill Guthridge	83-68	Duke, March 8, 1998, at Greensboro, N.C.
1st Final Four under Bill Guthridge	75-64	Connecticut, March 21, 1998, at Greensboro, N.C.
UNC's NCAA-record 15th Final Four	59-55	Tulsa, March 26, 2000, at Austin, Texas



All-America Al Wood scored an NCAA semifinal-record 39 points in the 1981 Final Four win over Virginia, propelling Carolina into the national cham-

survived an assassination attempt, UNC was beaten by Indiana in the national championship game.

WORTHY'S MVP PERFORMANCE KEYS CAROLINA'S THIRD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1981 team proved to be only a prelude to the greatness of the 1982 squad which won the

national championship. Preseason rated No. 1, the Tar Heels finished the regular season that way and went on to win the NCAA championship. The squad's 32-2 record equaled the school record for victories in a season as the Tar Heels swept through the ACC Tournament and the NCAA East Regional. There were many heroes on the '82 team. Worthy was named the co-National Player of the Year and he scored a career-high 28 points in UNC's pulsating 63-62 win over Georgetown in the championship game. Center Sam Perkins was a first-team All-America, and he was joined in the lineup by point guard Jimmy Black, small forward Matt Doherty and a freshman guard by the name of Michael Jordan. Jordan hit a 16-foot jump shot with 15 seconds left, providing the winning points in the title game, and Worthy sealed the victory with a steal of a Fred Brown pass with five seconds left.

Worthy opted to make himself available for the NBA draft after his junior year, and he was chosen as the first pick by the Los Angeles Lakers. Even without Worthy, the Tar Heels returned a strong cast in 1983 with a nucleus featuring Jordan and Perkins. Both players earned first-team All-America honors that year and Jordan was named National Player of the Year by The Sporting News. The Tar Heels finished 28-8 after starting 0-2, the worst-ever start for a Smith-coached team at Carolina. After splitting its first six games of the season, Carolina recovered from the slow start to be the nation's No. 1-ranked team for several weeks in January and February. After tying for the ACC



Freshman Michael Jordan burst upon the national scene with his game-winning jump shot to lift the Tar Heels to a 63-62 win over Georgetown in the 1982 NCAA championship game.

regular-season championship, the Heels made it to the finals of the NCAA East Regional before being upset by Georgia. The highlight of the year was an improbable 64-63 victory over Virginia on February 10, 1983 as No. 1-ranked Carolina rallied from 16 points down with 8:43 to play to beat second-ranked Virginia at Carmichael Auditorium.

In 1984, Smith had one of his best teams ever before it fell victim to a late-season injury bug. At 28-3 overall, the Tar Heels became only the sixth team in ACC history to go through the conference regular-season round-robin undefeated at 14-0. Jordan was named the consensus National Player of the Year and Perkins was named both first-team All-ACC and first-team All-America for the third straight year. Starting point guard Kenny Smith suffered a broken wrist in the LSU game on January 29 and never fully recovered that season. Center Brad Daugherty also suffered a hand injury during the ACC Tournament that hampered his play the rest of the way. That Tar Heel team finished No. 1 nationally in both final polls.

The 1985 team was another of Smith's over-achieving teams. Ignored in the pre-season Top 20 polls for the first time in recent memory, UNC went 27-9 that year after losing Perkins and Jordan from the lineup. Carolina tied for the ACC regular-season championship as Daugherty and Kenny Smith had superb years for the Tar Heels. Carolina was eliminated in the finals of the NCAA Southeast Regional by eventual national champion Villanova.

THE OPENING OF THE DEAN E. SMITH CENTER

The 1986 unit, led by first-team All-America Daugherty, won its first 21 games en route to a

28-6 mark. The Tar Heels were devastated at season's end by injuries to starters Steve Hale and Joe Wolf and backup center Warren Martin. For the second straight year, UNC was eliminated from the NCAA Tournament by the eventual national champion, Louisville. The season was also highlighted by the opening of the Dean E. Smith Center on the Carolina campus on January 18, 1986. The No. 1-ranked Tar Heels celebrated the move into their new 21,572-seat arena by beating No. 3 Duke, 95-92, that day.

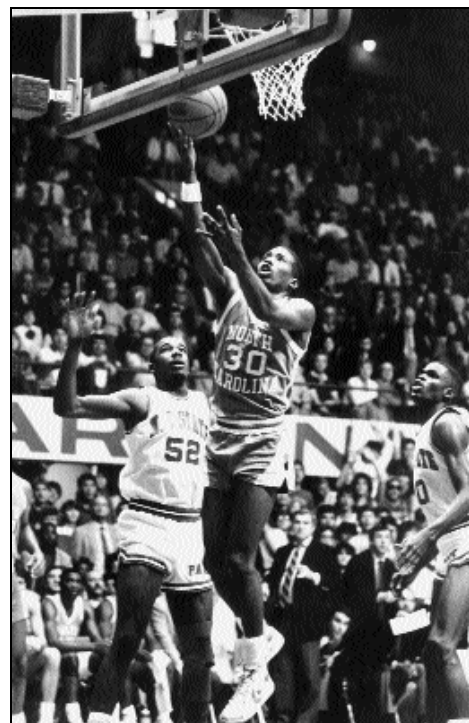
The 1987 squad proved to be another of Coach Smith's best teams. Led by a strong senior nucleus which featured All-ACC players Kenny Smith and Wolf, UNC tied the school record for victories in a season with 32 while completing a 32-4 ledger and a No. 2 ranking in the final AP poll. For the second time in four years, UNC finished the ACC regular-season a perfect 14-0. UNC advanced to the NCAA East Regional finals before falling to eventual NCAA finalist Syracuse. Smith capped a brilliant Tar Heel career by surpassing Ford as the school's all-time assist leader and being named Basketball Times' National Player of the Year.

Going into the 1988 campaign, many experts viewed the Tar Heels as an inexperienced bunch that might struggle more than some of Carolina's previous great squads. Smith again confounded the experts as he took a team with only one senior and molded it into a 27-7 unit that won the ACC regular-season championship outright. The season was highlighted by the play of first-team All-America forward J.R. Reid. Among the 27 wins was a thrilling 96-93 overtime win over pre-season No. 1-ranked Syracuse in the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic at Springfield, Mass.

While the 1988 team was inexperienced, the

1989 team was a veteran unit, led by a tremendous starting backcourt of seniors Jeff Lebo and Steve Bucknall. Carolina won its first ACC Tournament championship in seven years as it beat arch-rival Duke 77-74 in the championship game at Atlanta. The Tar Heels went on to the Final 16 of the NCAA Tournament before losing to eventual NCAA champion Michigan. UNC's 29-8 record marked the ninth successive season in which Carolina had won as many as 27 games. The Tar Heels finished the season ranked fourth in the final United Press International poll.

After the 1989 campaign, Reid opted to forgo his final year of eligibility to enter the NBA draft and was chosen as the fifth selection of the draft by the Charlotte Hornets. With Reid, Lebo and Bucknall gone, Smith's 1990 unit was his youngest in recent memory. In an "off" year by Carolina standards, UNC still finished a solid 21-13. The 13 losses were the most by a Carolina team since the 1952 squad finished 12-15. Despite the double-digit losses, Carolina tied for third in the ACC standings, won at least 20 games again and was invited to the NCAA Tournament. The Tar Heels made the most of their opportunity there. Carolina pulled off a stunning upset of top-ranked Oklahoma, 79-77, in the second round of the NCAA Midwest Regional at Austin, Texas. Carolina was seeded eighth in the region, while the Sooners were the entire tournament's top seed. Rick Fox hit an off-balance bank shot in the lane as time expired to provide Carolina



1987 National Player of the Year Kenny Smith was the point guard on two UNC teams that went undefeated in ACC play — the 1984 and '87 squads.



George Lynch addresses the boisterous Smith Center crowd that welcomed home the Tar Heels after they

with the winning points.

A 10TH FINAL FOUR FOR CAROLINA BASKETBALL

Carolina returned to national prominence again in 1991 as Smith led his team to its eighth NCAA Final Four during his tenure and the school's 10th trip overall. Carolina was ranked fourth nationally in the final AP and UPI polls as UNC finished 29-6. The Tar Heels won the 12th ACC Tournament championship in school history, a league record, by embarrassing arch-rival Duke 96-74 in the championship game at the Charlotte Coliseum. It was Smith's 11th tournament title in his 30th season at the helm of the Tar Heels.

A strong senior nucleus of All-ACC forward

Rick Fox, center Pete Chilcutt and point guard King Rice led Carolina to its 21st straight 20-win season and its 17th successive bid to the NCAA Tournament. During the course of the season, UNC passed Kentucky as college basketball's alltime winningest team. In NCAA play, Carolina beat Northeastern, Villanova, Eastern Michigan and Temple to win the NCAA East Regional before being edged by Smith's alma mater, Kansas, coached by UNC alumnus Roy Williams, in the NCAA semifinals at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis.

In 1991-92, the Tar Heels, led by senior guard Hubert Davis, finished 23-10 overall and reached the Final 16 of the NCAA Tournament for a 12th successive season. UNC also finished third in the ACC standings, the 28th successive

season in which Carolina had finished at least third in the conference regular-season wars.

WILLIAMS' THREE-POINTERS HELP BRING HOME SMITH'S SECOND NCAA TITLE

The 1993 Tar Heels added yet another trophy to the mantle of one of the sport's greatest coaches when the squad captured Coach Smith's second NCAA title by defeating Michigan 77-71 in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The team's 34-4 record broke the school record for victories in a season.

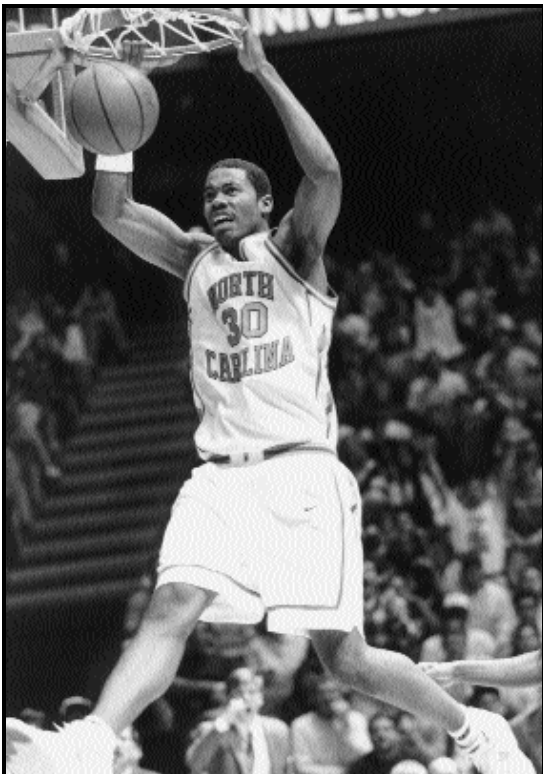
Picked by some sportswriters to finish third in the conference, Carolina won the ACC regular-season title with a 14-2 mark that included a spectacular, come-from-behind victory over Florida State on January 27, 1993 in the Smith Center – a game in which UNC rallied from a 21-point second-half deficit. The Heels entered the NCAA Tournament as the top seed in the East Regional, cruised to their 13th straight appearance in the Sweet 16 and survived frenetic battles against Arkansas and Cincinnati to earn Smith's ninth Final Four trip.

Battling Kansas in the NCAA semifinals for the second time in three years, Carolina advanced to the finals behind the outside shooting of sophomore guard Donald Williams. Other invaluable contributors to the NCAA title included the inside power of senior forward George Lynch and second-team All-America junior center Eric Montross and the quieter, yet equally important, contributions of point guard Derrick Phelps and small forward Brian Reese. In the finals against Michigan, Williams once again provided the spark, pouring in 25 points and making five-of-seven three pointers for the second straight game. As Williams was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, the celebration erupted simultaneously on Bourbon Street and Franklin Street with Carolina fans relishing the pinnacle of college basketball success once again.

The 1993-94 Carolina squad battled incredible expectations throughout the season and finished the year atop the Associated Press poll with a 28-7 record. A team with an interesting mixture of experience and youth, Carolina won Coach Smith's 12th ACC Tournament title with a 73-66 victory over Virginia in the finals. Seniors Eric Montross, Derrick Phelps, Brian Reese and Kevin Salvadori provided the leadership, while highly-touted freshmen Jeff McInnis, Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace showed glimpses of the future of Carolina basketball. The season ended with a disappointing loss to Boston College in the second round of the NCAA East Regional, but the early tournament exit could not overshadow the contributions of a senior class that won 114 games, two ACC Tournament titles, a national

CAROLINA'S REGULAR-SEASON TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tournament	Site	Years Won
Big Four Tournament	Greensboro, N.C.	1971, 1977
Blue Grass Festival	Louisville, Ky.	1959
Cable Car Classic	Santa Clara, Calif.	1981
Camelia Bowl	Lafayette, La.	1949
Carolina Classic	Greensboro, N.C.	1969
Central Fidelity Holiday Classic	Richmond, Va.	1987
Chase Preseason NIT	New York, N.Y.	1998
Dallas Morning News Classic	Dallas, Texas	1986
Diet Pepsi Tournament of Champions	Charlotte, N.C.	1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995
Dixie Classic	Raleigh, N.C.	1956, 1958, 1960
ECAC Holiday Festival	New York, N.Y.	1983
Far West Classic	Portland, Ore.	1968, 1976
Food Lion MVP Classic	Charlotte, N.C.	1999
Great Alaska Shootout	Anchorage, Alaska	1980, 1985, 1997
Greece Invitational	Various Sites	1983
Harris Teeter Pepsi Challenge	Charlotte, N.C.	1996, 1997
Kodak Classic	Rochester, N.Y.	1978
Madrid International Tournament	Madrid, Spain	1971
Maui Invitational	Lahaina, Hawaii	1999
Orange Bowl Classic	Miami, Fla.	1985
Rainbow Classic	Honolulu, Hawaii	1972, 1977, 1982
Red Lobster Classic	Orlando, Fla.	1990
Stanford Invitational	Stanford, Calif.	1983
Sugar Bowl Tournament	New Orleans, La.	1971
Tampa Invitational	Tampa, Fla.	1967
World Invitation Club Tournament	London, England	1987



Rasheed Wallace was a second-team All-America and a key player in Carolina's run to the 1995 Final Four.

championship, and advanced to two Final Fours.

MORE FINAL FOURS AND A WIN TO REMEMBER

The 1994-95 campaign began as one of uncertainty and ended as a further testament to the genius of Coach Smith and the skill of his players. With the loss of four senior starters from the previous year, the 1994-95 Tar Heels were one of Smith's most inexperienced teams in recent years. Nonetheless, sophomores Jeff McInnis, Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace stepped into their new starting roles beside senior guard Donald Williams and junior swingman Dante Calabria and led UNC to a 28-6 record, a tie for the ACC regular-season championship and the 12th NCAA Final Four in school history. Early in the season, Carolina became the first college basketball program in NCAA Division I history to amass 1,600 wins.

Stackhouse, a consensus first-team All-America, became the eighth Tar Heel to be named National Player of the Year when Sports Illustrated honored him as such. Wallace was a second-team All-America choice who finished the year as the ACC's leader in career field goal percentage (63.5 percent), while Williams completed his career as UNC's career leader in three-pointers made (221) and attempted (572).

The 1995-96 Tar Heels were as inexperienced a team as Coach Smith has placed on the court in his tenure. Stackhouse and Wallace both opted for the 1996 NBA Draft after their sophomore seasons and went as the third and fourth picks in the first round, respectively.

Three freshmen – Antawn Jamison, Vince Carter and Ademola Okulaja – were among the top seven players on the team which finished 21-11 overall and third in the ACC with a 10-6 mark. Jamison became the first Tar Heel and just the fifth player in league history to be named first-team All-ACC as a freshman. The season was highlighted by an overtime win at Maryland, a 20-rebound performance at Virginia by Jamison and remarkable comeback victories at home over Wake Forest and Duke. Carolina also won at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium for the third consecutive year, behind 26 points by Shammond Williams and 25 by Jeff McInnis.

The 1996-97 season was a special one. Carolina opened ACC regular-season play with an unprecedented three straight losses, but regrouped to finish 11-5 in conference play and finish in a tie for second place with pre-season favorite, Wake Forest. UNC won all eight of its games in February and earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament after winning the ACC Tournament title.

Jamison earned All-America and first-team All-ACC honors as he led the squad with 19.1 points and 9.4 rebounds per game. Freshman point guard Ed Cota was named the ACC's Rookie of the Year as he led the ACC and was eighth in the country in assists with 6.9 per game.

The Tar Heels went into the ACC Tournament as the No. 3 seed, but knocked off Virginia, Wake Forest and N.C. State to claim the school's 14th title. Shammond Williams averaged 20.0 points and 5.0 assists and was named the Tournament MVP. The Tar Heels swept through the NCAA East Regional, beating Louisville by 23 points in the regional final at Syracuse. Williams earned MVP honors after he scored a game-high 22 points against the Cardinals. He hit eight three-pointers in the two games in the Carrier Dome.

Smith became the winningest coach in Division I college basketball history with his 877th win. That came in the second round of the 1997 NCAA Tournament, a 73-56 triumph over Colorado. It was fitting that Smith's final season would include a trip to the Final Four, the 11th of his career.

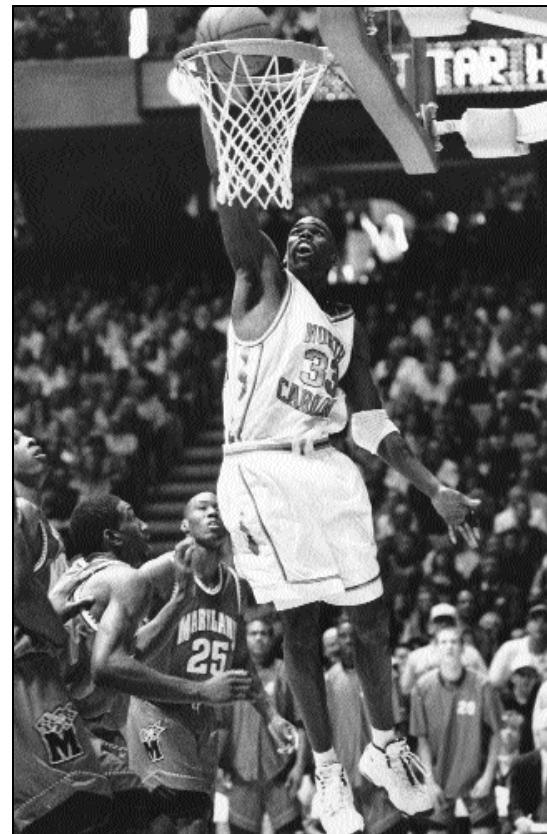
GUTHRIDGE TAKES OVER

Just prior to the start of the 1997-98 season, Smith stunned the basketball world when he announced his resignation as head coach on October 9, 1997. Smith, who said at the press confer-

ence "I am the luckiest guy in the world - to be in Chapel Hill, to at the University of North Carolina with this faculty, this student body," turned the program over to longtime assistant Bill Guthridge.

Guthridge picked up right where his mentor left off. The 60-year-old Kansas State alumnus became the winningest first-year head coach in NCAA history as he directed the Tar Heels to a 34-4 record, ACC Tournament title, NCAA Regional crown, Final Four berth and No. 1 ranking in the final Associated Press poll. Guthridge was named the National Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches, CBS, The Sporting News and the Atlanta Tipoff Club (Naismith Award).

Carolina was led by consensus National Player of the Year Antawn Jamison, who led the ACC in scoring with 22.2 points per game and in rebounds with 10.5 per game. Jamison became the third player in ACC history – with UNC's Lennie Rosenbluth in 1957 and Duke's Christian Laettner in 1992 – to be named ACC Player of the Year, ACC Tournament MVP, NCAA Regional MVP and National Player of the Year in the same season. Jamison finished his career fourth alltime at UNC in rebounds with 1,027 and seventh in scoring with 1,974 points. The Charlotte, N.C., native set a single-season record as a junior with 316 field goals and 389 rebounds and scored 822 points, second only to Rosenbluth's 895 in 1957. Jamison became the first player in ACC history to be



Antawn Jamison was the unanimous 1998 National Player of the Year and led Carolina to back-to-back Final Fours in '97